

Livestock & Natural Resources Newsletter

JULY 2007



Texas Cooperative Extension – Bexar County Office
3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212
San Antonio, Texas 78230
(210) 467-6575
<http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu>



This newsletter is sponsored by the Bexar Beef Cattle Committee

Improved Newsletter

During the June 14th meeting, the Bexar Beef Cattle Committee members approved a few changes in this newsletter. This newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis. Our intention will always be to keep you informed and inspired about current agriculture, livestock and environment issues in our county, state and world.

In the future, we are planning to distribute this newsletter electronically. Texas Cooperative Extension-Bexar County Office is working toward one of its many goals of promoting a less-waste society.

Please contact Annette (210) 467-6575 and ask her to put your name and e-mail address in the database.

New Editorial Staff Member

Nelson Diarte is the new member in our newsletter editorial staff. He is the Bexar County Natural Resources Program Extension Agent. His program area includes Land Stewardship and Wildlife Management; Home, Garden and Landscape Education; Natural Resources Literacy; Youth Education and Outdoor Activities, and Urban Wildlife and Predator Control. He will be helping us by including articles related to Natural Resources and Environment.

53rd Annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course and Industry Trade Show

**MONDAY – WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 6th – 8th**

Hosted by Texas Cooperative Extension & the Department of Animal Science

<http://beef.tamu.edu>

The TAMU Beef Cattle Short Course will be held at TAMU University Center and Rudder Tower in College Station. There will be concurrent workshops that will feature information on ranch management, reproduction, genetics, pastures, record keeping and more. For registration questions, call Kay Sanders at 979-845-7694.

For trade show or program questions, call Dr. Cleere's Office at (979) 845-6931.

Private Applicator Training

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th
3355 Cherry Ridge Dr. Suite 208

Class time is from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm. The cost is \$25.00, which includes the manual and worksheet. Please RSVP to Annette at (210) 467-6575.

Livestock & Wildlife Seminar

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23rd

Texas Cooperative Extension
Suite 208

Registration 6:00 pm; Programs begin promptly at 6:30 pm

Topics to include:

- Cattle Brand & Cattle Theft
- Food Plots – What Wildlife Eats
- Getting Ready for Winter: pregnancy test, vaccination, nutrition

One (1) CEU Offered

Wildlife Management Workshop

SEPTEMBER 18th & 19th

Helotes 4-H Activity Center
Registration at 6:15 pm

Topics to include:

- Wildlife Programs Available thru the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Law & Regulations to know during Hunting Season
- Know What Your Wildlife Eats
- Impact of Man on Range & Wildlife

More info: contact (210) 467-6575

Texas Animal Health Commission

The Texas Animal Health Commission is accepting comments for several regulation changes

Comments will be accepted until July 23 for proposed regulation changes to Chapters 43 and 51.

To make comments on the proposed regulations:

You may email comments to Comments@tahc.state.tx.us

Fax them to: 512-719-0719

Or mail them to: TAHC

Comments, Box 12966, Austin, TX 78711-2966

The Texas Animal Health Commission's web page may be accessed at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us>

Udderly Amazing

- Dairy cows provide us with milk and milk by-products like cheese, butter, and ice cream. In addition, milk is also used to manufacture glue, paint, and plastics.

- The average U.S. dairy cow produces 22.5 quarts of milk each day. That's about 16,000 glasses of milk per year – enough for about 40 people. One cow can give 200,000 glasses of milk in a lifetime.

- In a year's time, a dairy cow produces 1,500 gallons or 6,000 quarts of milk. A Jersey cow will give as much as 3 to 4 gallons or around 16 quarts of milk each day.

- Straight from the cow, the temperature of cow's milk is about 97 degrees Fahrenheit.

- It takes approximately 1.4 gallons of milk to make 1 gallon of ice cream.

- Cheese was first made over 4,000 years ago in Asia.

- A cow has 4 stomachs. They are: the rumen, where the food is first stored, the reticulum where food that has been more thoroughly chewed is stored once the cow has chewed the cud and has swallowed it; the omasum where extra water is squeezed out, and finally the food goes to the abomasum. Some of the digested food is then stored in the cow's udder where it is made into milk.

- Cows are ruminants or cud-chewing animals eating hay, corn, soybeans, grass, wheat, and ensilage. Each cow eats 20 to 25 pounds of grain, 40 to 60 pounds of ensilage, 30 pounds of hay and drinks about 15 to 25 gallons of water a day.

- Cows are sedentary animals spending up to 8 hours a day chewing the cud while standing still or lying down to rest after grazing. When going to be milked, a certain cow in an established herd always leads the others with the weaker and older cattle trailing behind the group.

- A typical, full grown Holstein cow weighs between 1,200-1,400 pounds and produces around 60 pounds of milk per day.

- One day's production is 2.6 pounds of butter or 7 gallons of milk or 6 pounds of cheese.

- A dairy cow consumes 35 gallons of water, 20 pounds of grain and concentrated feed and 35 pounds of hay or silage (a mixture of corn and grass) in just one day.

- It usually takes about 20 minutes for a cow to be milked. On average a cow is milked 2 to 3 times a day.

- Hamburger meat from a single steer will make about 720 quarter pound hamburger patties. That's enough for a family of 4 to enjoy hamburgers each day for nearly 6 months.

Fabulous Forests

An acre of trees can remove about 13 tons of dust and gases every year from the surrounding environment.



Almost a third of the world's total land area is covered by forests.

Some tissue-making machines can produce as many as 6000 feet of toilet tissue every minute out of trees.

About 1.5 million tons of ground cocoa beans from the tropical tree are used each year to make chocolate and cocoa products. That's greater than the weight of more than 300,000 elephants!

Every year in the United States each person uses the equivalent of one tree, 100 feet tall and 16 inches in

diameter, to fulfill their wood and paper needs.

Thirty to 40 gallons of sugar maple sap must be boiled down to make just one gallon of maple syrup.

Environmental Glossary

Climate Change: sometimes refer to all forms of climatic inconsistency, but because the Earth's climate is never static, the term is more properly used to imply a significant change from one climatic condition to another. In some cases, "climate change" has been used synonymously with the term "Global Warming"; scientists however, tend to use the term in the wider sense to also include natural changes in the climate

Global Warming: an increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth. Global warming has occurred in the distant past as the result of natural influences, but the term is most often used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases. Scientists generally agree that the Earth's surface has warmed by about 1 (one) degree Fahrenheit in the past 140 years.

Greenhouse Gas: any gas that absorbs infra-red radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), halogenated fluorocarbons (HCFCs), ozone (O₃), perfluorinated carbons (PFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Greenhouse effect: the effect produced as greenhouse gases allow incoming solar radiation to pass through the Earth's atmosphere, but prevent most of the outgoing infra-red radiation from the surface and lower atmosphere from escaping into outer space. This process occurs naturally and has kept the Earth's temperature about 60 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it would otherwise be. Current life on Earth could not be sustained without the natural greenhouse effect.

Non-Renewable Resources: a resource that is NOT capable of being naturally restored or replenished; a resource that is exhausted because it has not been replaced, or because it is used faster than it can be replaced. Their use as material and energy sources leads to depletion of the Earth's reserves and are characterized as such as they do not renew in human relevant periods. (They are not being replenished or formed at any significant rate on a human time scale)

Conservation: is the wise use of natural resources (nutrients, minerals, water, plants, animals, etc.). Planned action or non-action to preserve or protect living and non-living resources.

Source of Information:

<http://earth911.org>

Retrieved: 06/22/07 (11:36 AM)

Spurs Owner Named Parks and Wildlife Chairman

Governor Rick Perry appointed Peter Holt, principal owner of the San Antonio Spurs, as the chairman of the Texas Park and Wildlife Commission.

Mr. Holt, of Blanco, is chief executive officer of Holt-Cat, a Texas Caterpillar dealership and has served as a member of the Park and Wildlife Commission since 2003.

Source of information:

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/>

Retrieved 07/05/07 (12:21 PM)

Simple and Cheap Suggestions to Make Your Life a Little More

Eco-Friendly. Change light bulbs to compact fluorescents. They use less electricity and last years longer. Keep your vehicle tires at the right pressure to improve mileage by as much as 10-20 percent.

Briefs and Bits

Family Farms Dominate U.S. Ag Scene

Family farms still represent the majority of U.S. farm operations, according to a recent report by the USDA's Economic Research Service.

The report cites the amount of family farms in the United States at 98 percent (in 2004, the latest year data is available). The report notes even the largest farms tend to be family farms.

Meanwhile, Drovers reports other USDA data with a similar pattern in cow-calf operations. USDA's latest count shows 760,880 operations with at least one cow, but only 78,850 operations with 100 or more cows. Of the 33.5 million beef cows in the United States, 52.8 percent are in herds of 100 or more.

Source of information:

Country World - The Rural Newspaper of Texas - July 2007

Cattle Industry Feels Pinch of Corn Ethanol

Motorists might save a few cents a gallon filling their tanks with ethanol, but they could soon be paying more for a burger and a milkshake as a result.

Demand for corn needed to make ethanol is soaring and so are the prices, which have more than doubled within the past year.

That's bad news for beef and dairy producers who also depend on the grain to feed their herds. Many say that cost will eventually be passed on to consumers, and will likely mean higher grocery bills later this year.

Cattle feed yards like the one Kyle Williams manages in Texas, the nations leading cattle-producing state, is one of the first stops on the road to higher beef prices.

About one-quarter of the 30,000 animals at Lubbock Feeders were bought before corn prices began to soar steadily – an added cost he didn't factor into the price he paid for them. He knows he'll lose money when it's time to sell.

"One I buy today, I know it's going to cost more to feed it, so I give you less," said Williams, who's been able to get corn for feed, but he's paying more for it – about \$8.36 per 100 pounds. "I just pass the buck on down the line."

By December, corn costs could push the already high beef prices consumers are paying even higher, said Jim Gill, market director for the Amarillo Texas-based Texas Cattle Feeders Association.

Cattle feeders now are losing as much as \$100 per head because of high corn prices, he said.

Cattle feeders and producers aren't the only ones complaining about higher corn prices. Dairy farmers also are feeling the pinch.

"As more acres go into corn it takes out other forages," Canton dairy farmer Scott Ortiz said.

U.S. farmers who once grew forage crops like alfalfa, milo or grain sorghum are switching to corn. That means fewer forage crops to feed dairy cows, said John Cown, executive director of the Texas Association Dairymen.

Milk prices are expected to continue climbing due to higher transportation costs and the increased corn demand due to ethanol.

Source of information:

Country World - The Rural Newspaper of Texas - July 2007

Did you know?

...every hour, 125 of America's farms and ranches are paved over for housing, highways, malls and parking lots! That is 3,000 acres a day and 1,095,000 acres a year



Source of information:

<http://www.farmland.org/>

Retrieved: 06/25/07 (08:26 AM)

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Texas Cooperative Extension Programs

The Bexar County Extension's agents and support staff offers practical knowledge to help people make informed decisions to improve their quality of life. Our educational programs promote a better understanding of agriculture, horticulture, environmental stewardship, entomology, economic development, youth development and family health and well being.

We are ready to respond to Bexar County residents who need information and educational services. Through our educational programs, we promote science-based education, community involvement and lifelong learning and volunteerism.

Please visit our web site at: <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu>. Our phone number is (210) 467-6575.

The Bexar Beef Cattle Committee

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